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DECEMBER 27, 1955

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Marginal Column

By EREZ LAQUER

THE coming few weeks in Russia between the present session of the Supreme Soviet and the 20th party conference next February, will be a period of considerable political activity. It has been announced that a recruiting campaign for membership in the Communist party has taken place and the figure of members which has been 100 million for some time has risen to about 100 million. At the same time some minor purge has apparently been going on. Among those ousted were the head of the Agitprop department of the party, the editors of "Communist" and the "Literary Gazette," the party secretary of the Karelo-Finnish republic, the Gorki, Volodga and Chirchik regions and several others. Gorki in particular has been considered for many years a key position and a spring board for a leading post in the Moscow hierarchy. The post of party secretary in Gorki was previously held by Kaganovich (1919-1920-22) Sholov, Shcherbakov and Rodionov. The last secretary, D. M. Smirnov, was apparently a man of lesser calibre. It was also known that he belonged to the Malenkov faction. There seems to be some uncertainty about Mr. Malenkov's position, even on Moscow radio. One day last month Malenkov was announced to be a first deputy prime minister, but this was denied the next day and said to have been a mere misunderstanding. He that is it may be the "Rightists" are the "Leftists" property. (Including Hungary where the country's leading writers have just been charged with right-wing deviationism) and the "Leftists" have been charged with right-wing deviationism. The "Rightists" have been charged with right-wing deviationism. The "Leftists" have been charged with right-wing deviationism.

N.C.O. Anti-State Plot Said Foiled in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Monday.—The Argentine Province San Luis announced today that a "plot aimed at creating disorder" had been foiled. A number of arrests were reported to have been made.

According to an official communiqué, more than 20 non-commissioned officers and scores of civilians had been detained in the city of San Luis.

The communiqué said the authorities found conspirators of an anti-aircraft motorized regiment were summoned before dawn for mysterious unscheduled "maneuvers." Local army units were detailed to arrest the non-commissioned officers responsible — all supporters of the deposed President Juan Peron.

No Resistance

They surrendered without resistance, the communiqué said, but a major shooting affair developed a few hours later when troops went to search a country estate where "conspirators" were meeting. A loyalist soldier was killed and two rebels injured, including one civilian.

The plotters were brought to Buenos Aires while the authorities combed the city of Villa Mercedes, which is an important military centre in the province of San Luis.

Hundreds of arrests have been reported in the last 10 days in the towns of Tandil, in Buenos Aires Province. All were said to be in connection with Peronist conspiracies and attempts at sabotage.

(Reuter, UP)

S. Korea Charges Chinese Sea Attack

SEOUL, Monday.—South Korea today accused China of committing "an act of war" in firing at a South Korean patrol vessel and capturing four coastguardmen some 30 kms. off South Korea early yesterday morning.

The government spokesman asked for Allied support, but in the meantime he said the Communists do not return the four men, we shall have to resort to the strongest possible action of our own.

Japan and China, North Korea and Japan of joining together in an aggressive pact to encircle South Korea, a Foreign Ministry official commented curtly, "sheer nonsense."

South Korea's Marine Affairs Office reported that a Korean patrol vessel, the "Yongun," was fired at by a Chinese patrol vessel working inside the 100 kms. limit, declared by President Syngman Rhee, when the vessel fired back. The report said six armed Chinese vessels appeared and exchanged shots with the Korean patrol vessel, capturing the "Yongun" and releasing it with the four Koreans aboard.

(U.S. authorities in Korea were reported taking a calmer view of the incident. Neither the U.S. Navy nor Air Force reported seeing the early morning battle off the Chinese fleet.) (Reuter, UP)

Scores Feared Dead in U.S. Floods

SAN FRANCISCO, Monday (Reuter).—Scores are feared dead in the now receding floodwaters of the Feather River which burst its banks on Christmas Eve and swamped half of Yuba City to a depth of several feet.

Many residents trying to race the waters are believed to have been trapped in their cars. Altogether 27 persons have perished in the California floods, while in Oregon six are dead and five missing. An estimated 50,000 are homeless in the two Pacific coast states.

A crest of water borne by the giant San Joaquin-Sacramento River system threatened to pile up with a high incoming tide out of San Francisco Bay today. Levees protecting tidal flats in the rich delta country north-east of here trembled under pounding waves as torrids brought sandbags for emergency gangs who rushed from one weak spot to another.

Communications were still out in critical areas, and families and whole populations scattered in hasty evacuations. But there was hope that the worst was over.

In the north, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties sheltered thousands of refugees in public centres and private homes. Coastguard helicopters rescued 124 persons in 24 hours in the Marysville Yuba City area.

Airmen chopped holes in roofs to get at flood victims, and used the blades of their helicopters to cut television aerials which hampered rescue work.

Federal and state relief teams were at work in all areas organizing food supplies, medical care and rehabilitation.

Soviet Announces 10% Cut in Defence Budget

MOSCOW, Monday (Reuter).—Russia will cut her defence spending this year by about 10 per cent to permit greater development of public economy and culture, Finance Minister A. G. Zverev told the opening session of the Supreme Soviet today.

Estimated defence expenditure for 1956 would be 102,500 million rubles compared with 112,125 million rubles last year.

The reduction in military expenditure means that the Soviet Union is showing concern not in words but by deeds for the reduction of international tension and for the guaranteeing of peace and security, Mr. Zverev said.

The Finance Minister reported that the Government staff had been reduced by 750,000 in 1954 and 1955 as part of a drive against bureaucracy.

His budget speech was one of two major items on the agenda for the 1,347 deputies of the Supreme Soviet's two chambers, the Council of the Union and the Council of Nationalities. They will also hear either Premier Marshal Nikhail Bulganin or Mr. Nikhail Khrushchev, the Communist Party leader, report on their month-long Asian tour.

Actual Reduction Less

The actual reduction in defence spending is likely to be less than appears from the figures, in view of a general cut in wholesale prices announced by the Finance Ministry. This is likely to mean that the Government will get more supplies for less money.

Western observers noted the absence of any "sare-rattling" in the Finance Minister's speech, indicating that the Soviet Union would maintain its policy line of peaceful coexistence and negotiations between East and West.

The session, which lasted for just over two hours, was attended by the leaders of the Persian and Finnish parliamentary delegations visiting the Soviet Union.

Mr. Zverev estimated expected budget revenue in 1956 at 261,500 million rubles, with expenditure at 261,500 million rubles and an estimated budget surplus of 25,100 million rubles.

He disclosed that construction was going on at atomic power stations of between 50,000 and 100,000 kilowatt power.

Cites Asian Tour

The Finance Minister said, "The Soviet Union will continue to work for the development of international confidence among nations by means of negotiations and personal contacts between Heads of Government." He cited as an example of this the Bulganin-Khrushchev visit to India, Burma and Afghanistan.

The total allocation for the national economy in 1956 will be 267,000 million rubles with an allocation of 161,200 million rubles for social and cultural measures.

Heavy industry, to which the Soviet Union now attaches primary importance, will get 134,700 million rubles — a slight reduction on 1955 when a big-scale heavy industry development programme was set into action following the resignation of Mr. Georgi Malenkov as Prime Minister.

The allocation for agriculture will be 26,000 million rubles and for consumer goods more than 26,000 million rubles.

The Chairman of the Budget Committee of the Soviet of Nationalities tabled amendments to the draft state budget. He proposed raising the revenue side of the budget by increasing the income under several items.

Grotewohl: Will End W. German Militarism

HONG KONG, Monday (Reuter).—Dr. Otto Grotewohl, East German Premier, said in Peking yesterday that the people of East Germany would "put an end to the rule of militarism and the monopoly of capital in West Germany," according to Peking Radio.

The radio said Dr. Grotewohl added that East Germany would thus " pave the way to unifying the country for the sake of the security of various countries."

Dr. Grotewohl made these statements when a treaty of co-operation and friendship between China and East Germany was signed in Peking yesterday. The New China News Agency said East German leaders issued a joint statement attacking Western policies of "armed strength and colonialism."

It also said that Grotewohl made a speech in Peking in which he described Dr. Konrad Adenauer, West German Chancellor, as "the Chiang Kai-shek of Germany."

Grotewohl and the members of his delegation left Peking for Outer Mongolia, their tour of China ended. They were seen off at the airport by a large group of Chinese officials headed by Prime Minister Chou En-lai.

Bonn Names Envoy To Soviet Union

BONN, Monday (Reuter).—West Germany has proposed a German ambassador to the Soviet Union, a senior career diplomat, as the first German Ambassador to Russia, usually well-informed sources said today.

Sudan Names Five-Man Sovereignty Commission

KHARTOUM, Monday (UP).—Sudan's Parliament today named a five-man Sovereignty Commission to take over the British Governor-General's functions until a President is elected.

The five are Ahmed Mohamed Yassin, Senate Speaker (for the National Unionist Party), Dardar Mohammed, a member of the outgoing Government-General's Commission (for the opposition parties), Siricio Iru, member of the Governor-General's Commission (for south-east Sudan), and two others representing Independents.

Following the formation of the Sovereignty Commission, Premier Ismail al-Uhass was scheduled to submit his resignation to this new body and form a coalition Cabinet.

FAROUK'S PALACE READIED FOR TITO

President Tito of Yugoslavia will arrive in Cairo tomorrow for a 10-day visit as the guest of the Egyptian Government, NEARS announced last night. The President will be accommodated in ex-King Farouk's Kubba Palace, overlooking the Nile.

42 Are Killed In Algeria; More Officials Resign

ALGERIA, Monday.—Chaos in Algeria over the Christmas week-end led to 42 deaths, including 11 rebels killed in battles with security forces, according to reports reaching here today.

A European forest warden, his wife and child were killed when they were ambushed by a band of 30 rebels in the Setif region. Near Tébessa, another European was killed and his wife wounded in a terrorist attack, while three Algerian Home Guardsmen were killed in a clash in the Oran Department.

The point of 35 tribesmen commanded by a French sergeant disappeared in the mountains bordering Algeria and Morocco, it was announced today.

Rebel activity in the Babna area included hurling a grenade into a bar, sabotage of a high tension line and stealing livestock from farms. A Bata-Bleed bus was held up, but troops drove away the attackers as they were about to abduct the passengers.

There was also a worsening of the political situation. Three municipal councillors resigned in Oran and eight in Constantine following instructions from an Algerian nationalist party. Three delegates to the Algerian Assembly also resigned.

Muslim politicians who previously backed the French attitude of regarding Algeria as a French colony, are now demanding a change of front and to speak of recognition of the Algerian nation.

To Demand Autonomy

Muslim representatives to the Assembly of the French Union, the Algerian Assembly, and local Algerian bodies decided last week to send a delegation to Paris in the new year, "to press for a policy of Algerian autonomy within the framework of interdependence with France."

A "liberation mission" of three high Government officials left Paris for Algeria today to study the situation. The mission was decided upon last week by Premier Edgar Faure in view of the deteriorating situation.

Meanwhile, following a Christmas truce in campaigning, elections were recommenced in France, with only a week to go before the French people go to the polls. The biggest issues in the minds of the electors and the candidates are the continued bloodshed in Algeria and the question of whether more national servicemen will have to go to fight the rebels.

In Marseille, former Premier Pierre Mendes-France, speaking before 3,000 listeners, promised that if his Republican Front is successful, his first act as Premier will be to go to Algeria to attempt to settle the problem on the spot. As Prime Minister, Mr. Mendes-France said, he would ask for "very wide powers" to apply a new Algerian policy.

Eshkol Outlines Budget To Cabinet Committee

An outline of the 1956/57 budget was presented to the Ministerial Economic Committee yesterday by Mr. Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance.

The Economic Committee and the Cabinet are expected to approve the IL780m. budget within the next two weeks and then pass it on to the Knesset Finance Committee. Certain alterations in his proposals are still to be made before it goes to the Knesset, and further changes will be made in March, when the final effects of inflationary pressures on revenue and expenditure become more fully known.

The new budget will be studied this year by the Finance Committee before it goes for its final reading in the Knesset — a reversal of the usual procedure. This move, which is not expected to serve as a precedent for future years, was necessitated by the delay in the budget's preparation.

The Economic Committee also discussed the financial condition of municipalities following the recent increase in local taxes in various towns and in view of the impending strike of Tel Aviv Municipal employees.

Saudi Forces Put Under Egyptian Army Chief

CAIRO, Monday (UP).—Maj.-Gen. Abdul Hakim Amer, Egypt's Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief, has been named head of the joint Egyptian-Saudi Arabian armed forces under the two nations' new mutual defence pact.

Amer already is Commander of Egyptian-Syrian joint forces under a similar agreement signed in answer to the Baghdad pact.

The three nations today formally announced their readiness to provide Jordan with financial aid now replacing annual grants received from Britain.

NEARS broadcast an official denial in Amman of reports from Syria that financial aid had been offered to Jordan and that King Hussein had been invited to meet with the heads of the Syrian, Egyptian and Saudi Arabian Governments.

The offer was unofficially reported last week. Reports also were circulating that the Arab nations may summon a regional "summit conference" of Premiers to align policy.

Damascus Radio said yesterday that King Hussein of Jordan has agreed to the proposed meeting of the heads of Syria, Egypt, the Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Solution of the present Jordanian crisis, the broadcast said, would be the "first step to the solution of the Palestine problem."

The Radio also said that the Egyptian vessel, Kahira, is now sailing to Alexandria with a cargo of 200 tons of ammunition and 15 British tanks. It claimed that the shipment of the British "surplus" tanks to Egypt during recent weeks amounts to 151.

IRAQ DENIES PRESSURE

An official Iraqi communiqué released last night in Baghdad denied that the meeting of the Baghdad Pact Council had adopted seven secret decisions, including a resolution to urge Syria and Jordan to join the pact and to put an end to the "Palestine problem." NEARS reported yesterday that the Iraqi Government would not exert pressure on any Arab country to adhere to the pact.

The Jordan Cultural Attaché in Baghdad, Ibrahim Salah, has been expelled from Iraq, "El Jihad," the Old City daily, reported yesterday.

T.A. Employees Striking Today

TEL AVIV, Monday.—A strike of Tel Aviv Municipal employees will begin here tomorrow morning. It is called by the Municipal Employees Association of the Tel Aviv District.

The strike became certain late tonight when Mayor Haim Levanon rejected a proposal that the Municipal Council should accept the demands of the head of the Labour Relations Division of the Ministry of Labour, Mr. A. Wertheimer.

The strike was accepted by Mr. E. Shechter, Secretary of the local Labour Council and leader of the Mapa bloc in the Municipal Council. Mayor Levanon, Mr. A. Boyar, the Hapoel Hamizrachi Deputy Mayor, and Mr. D. Yutan, the Herut Councillor, declined to accept his decisions as binding.

Among those striking will be Municipal workers employed in engineering departments, workshops, road maintenance, sanitation, transport services, social welfare and administrative offices.

Those not striking will include teachers, hospital personnel, rate collectors, water and lighting workers, watchmen, market personnel, persons engaged in relief works and the staffs of the offices of the Mayor and Town Clerk.

The strike resolution was taken at a mass rally of the Association at the Beit Ha'am here tonight, addressed by Mr. Shechter. The Association's demands are:

- that only their association be recognized as the workers' bargaining agent,
- that the questions of pensions and grants to widows be settled,
- that all appointments, including those of department heads, be made only after consultation with the Association.

West Broadens Consultations On Arms to Mid-East

WASHINGTON, Monday (Reuter).—Consultations between the U.S., Britain and France aimed at coordinating their arms deliveries to Middle Eastern countries have now been expanded to include Italy and Canada, authoritative sources said today.

Since the three-power declaration of May, 1950, urging the prevention of an arms race between the Arab states and Israel, British, French and U.S. officials here have been consulting each other regularly to make sure that arms supplied by their Governments to the Middle East do not go beyond its limits.

At the time, the three powers were the only Western countries whose arms to spare.

Since then, most representatives have been successfully coordinating their supplies to the Middle East by keeping each other informed of all requests for arms received from the countries in the area and of what response they propose to make to these requests.

In the past 12 months, however, Canada and Italy have become potential sources of arms supply to the Middle East and have received requests from that area.

Knesset Rejects Earlier Debate on Peace Plan

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter.

The Knesset last night, by a vote of 14-12, rejected Herut and Communist motions for the agenda calling for a debate on the Government's peace proposals, as outlined in a memorandum submitted to the U.S. State Department last week. Poeliz Agudat Yisrael and some Zionists voted with the Coalition.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Moshe Sharett, did not reply to the content of the memorandum, but asked the House to strike them from the agenda in view of the fact that the Government had already announced its intention to make a statement on foreign policy and security problems in the Knesset next week.

This would be followed by a comprehensive debate as the House wished, Mr. Sharett said. "The House Committee yesterday decided to allot ten hours to the debate."

Presenting the Herut motion, Dr. A. Altman asserted that the Government's view of peace was distorted. It believed in giving up territory, not in demanding it. But there were Jews who thought otherwise. They were convinced, not only of our full right to Eretz Yisrael in its entirety, but that our very existence depended on millions of additional Jews coming to Israel, and that these millions could be settled only in the complete Eretz Yisrael.

Mr. M. Wilner (Communist) declared that the peace proposals were no such thing, since they were based on Israel's adherence to a pro-American, anti-Soviet alliance. Nor was the plan an Israeli one; it was actually a synthesis of the American and British "plans for Israel-Arab peace."

Army Patrol Fired On

Egyptian soldiers approaching the Armistice Line in the vicinity of Kufin in the western Negev yesterday fired on an Israeli patrol which was within Israeli territory, the Army spokesman announced.

The patrol returned the fire and the Egyptians retreated to their position. The patrol suffered no casualties.

An Israel patrol on Sunday morning opened fire on a group of Egyptian infiltrators which entered Israel territory in the vicinity of Nir Yitzhak in the western Negev, the spokesman added. The infiltrators fled into the Gaza Strip their deaths.

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Today's Postbag

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.	2	3	4
Tel Aviv	18	22	18
Haifa	16	20	16
Nazareth	14	18	14
Tel Aviv Port	18	22	18
Tel Aviv Airport	18	22	18
Jerusalem	16	20	16
Beersheva	20	24	20
Dimona	22	26	22

THE DAGON SLEW in Haifa Harbour set a record on Sunday by unloading in 24 hours 3,600 tons of grain from ships and delivering 3,100 tons into trucks and railcars for inland transport.

FOR OBTAINING IL-048 in disability compensation, and IL-100 in rehabilitation, by pretending that he had been wounded about the head during the War of Independence—Mordechai Zohar, of Jerusalem, was yesterday sentenced to one year in prison by Dr. B. Halevi, President of the Jerusalem District Court.

THE FORTNIGHTLY convoy went up to Mount Scopus yesterday accompanied by 15 visitors. Its recent was postponed because of the violent anti-Government demonstrations in the Old City.

Agency Approves Date Of Congress Opening

The Jewish Agency Executive yesterday approved the decision of the 24th Zionist Congress on April 11. Before the Executive, voted, informed the meeting of the objection of various Zionist leaders abroad to the early date. The Chairman of the Zionist General Council, Mr. Yosef Sprinzak, told the Executive that all Zionist parties in this country favored the April 11 date.

The Executive also backed a proposal by the Treasurer, Dr. Giora Josephthal, to add IL-600 to the immigrant housing budget for the early part of 1956. Mr. Eliahu Dobkin reported on the decision of the Joint Government-Jewish Agency Coordinating Committee to hold regional conferences in February. The European Conference will be held in Switzerland.

IMMIGRANTS TO COME VIA NAPLES

TUNIS, Monday (INA).— Jewish immigrants from Tunis bound for Israel will no longer be sent via Marseilles, but through Naples, the Jewish Agency office here announced today. Their number will be restricted during the winter because of the onset of the seasonal storms in the Mediterranean. The immigrants will be taken to Naples in Italian vessels and transferred to Israel passenger ships for the journey to Haifa.

GERMAN PLANE LEAVES LYDDA AIRPORT, Monday.

The German plane which came down here with 35 German pilgrims bound for Bethlehem on Saturday night, when bad weather prevented her landing at Kalandia Airport, took off for Nicosia today. The Jordanian authorities refused to permit the plane to land at Kalandia from Lydda.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1955

Becker's Compromise Wage Plan Seen Certain of Acceptance

The compromise proposals regarding the 1956 wage policy suggested last week by Mr. Aharon Becker, head of the Trades Union Department of the Histadrut, will probably be accepted next week, with minor variations, by the Government and the labour parties, it was learned in Jerusalem yesterday.

According to these proposals, a general increase in pay allowances of 10 per cent will take place on a sliding scale. This scale will be based on the basic wage. Workers who earn less than IL-600 basic pay will receive no extra allowance, and those with a basic pay of more than IL-1,200 will get the maximum allowance of IL-48. These allowances would be flexible. It was also suggested that workers with a basic salary of less than IL-600 pay less income tax.

It is calculated that Mr. Becker's plan would involve a rise of approximately 10 per cent in money turnover, as against the IL-200 increase which an overall 10 per cent increase in basic pay would cause.

It was understood yesterday from Ministry of Finance sources that Ministry officials realize some compromise is inevitable, and that they regard these proposals as the best in the circumstances. It is claimed, however, that Mr. Becker's plan has certain technical difficulties, as it will burden the pay scale with numerous new calculations.

It is still not clear how Mr. Becker proposes to arrange the scale of allowance. The guesses appearing in various newspapers yesterday were without foundation, senior Mapai officials stated yesterday. The proposal was claimed to be flexible, they claimed, as they hoped that fuller agreement would be reached when the scale is worked out jointly between the Government and the labour parties.

Expected to Agree

Although both Mapam and Abud HaAvoda have criticized Mr. Becker's proposals severely, they are expected to accept them in principle. In the case of the middle and lower wage earners' claims were recognized, they are expected to accept these proposals. In the case of Abud HaAvoda and Mapam have already agreed that a compromise must be reached, and that the bargaining will not be too difficult.

Hapoel Hamizrachi has not yet expressed an opinion officially on Mr. Becker's proposals, but it is thought that they are in favour of their acceptance. The Progressive Party and their labour section in the Histadrut, Hapoel Hatzioni, are in a similar predicament, as these proposals would deprive academicians and senior Government officials of a large part of their pay increases suggested by the Government Committee. It is not clear how strong their resistance will be, but parliamentary sources expect that the importance of all parties concerned accepting the proposals, the academicians and the senior officials are also expected, after some initial hesitation, to agree to a postponement of their claims until after the present inflationary pressures are eased.

Meanwhile, discussions on the proposals are to be continued by the Histadrut Trades Union Department tomorrow at which all the Histadrut parties will be represented. The meeting of the Mapai Central Committee, which was to have considered the question yesterday, has been postponed until Thursday. It is likely that a meeting of Cabinet Ministers and Histadrut officials will be held on Friday. The crucial meeting of the Histadrut Executive, which was scheduled for Thursday, will probably take place on Sunday. The meeting cannot be postponed much longer, "for there is little time left for deciding the wage policy of 1956."

New Peak In Unemployment

The average daily number of unemployed jumped by 1,300 in the week ending December 18 to stand at 18,150, the highest figure in several years, Ministry of Labour sources stated yesterday.

The "real" unemployment figure is much higher since during that week the Ministry granted 1,600 work-days daily (the maximum it can grant under the Employment Budget) in afforestation and soil conservation. Not all of these allocated days were exploited, because of bad weather.

It was pointed out that the large jump was caused partially by the rising and the slowing down of building. It is hoped that citrus picking and allied tasks will soon absorb several thousand unemployed. Nearly all of them played a movement of a concerto with piano accompaniment.

After the performance, Mr. Menuchin, surrounded by students and their parents, praised the players individually, and offered some hints for improvement of their skill.

The students were: Emanuel Aschkenazi, 14; Alexander Dostel, 14; Asiel Drori, 14; Uri Hadari, 14; Rami Oran, 13; Itzhak Ruben, 15; Ezra Spitzman, 13; and Yossi Zivoni, 13.

Manufacturers Ready To Freeze Prices, If...

The Manufacturers Association objects to any rise in wages which is not accompanied by an increase in productivity or an improvement in performance. In consideration of the present national emergency, it is also prepared to freeze prices on condition that the same is done for all production expenses, such as wages (including the Cost-of-Living allowance) and indirect financing expenses and services. These resolutions were passed by the Executive Committee of the Association yesterday, and were approved by the Board.

Health Ministry Denies Reports of Dismissals

The Ministry of Health last night published a detailed denial of reports appearing in the press according to which several senior Ministry officials were due to be dismissed and replaced by members of the new Minister's party, Mapam. The rumoured dismissals, chiefly of the Deputy Director-General, Mr. H. E. Halevi, last week aroused a strong protest from the Ministry staff, and was the subject of discussion at a meeting last night between the Minister, Mr. Y. Barzilai, and the staff committee in Jerusalem.

The official denial reads as follows: "Certain newspapers have printed false and misleading reports of dismissals from the administrative staff of the Ministry of Health. The rumour that the Director-General is to be dismissed is absolutely false and vicious. There is no truth in the report that the Director of the Nursing Division, Mrs. Y. Rosenfeld, is to be dismissed. Mr. E. Halevi, the Deputy Director-General, has not been given any notice of pending dismissal. The Director-General of the Ministry of Health, Mr. Y. Barzilai, has not been given any notice of pending dismissal. The entire Ministry of Health staff remains faithful to its job, and the malicious rumours which are being spread to the contrary will not influence it in any way."

Prize for 'Cattle-Breeders' Friend'

HAIFA, Monday.— For diagnosing an undefined disease that for seven years had caused cattle breeders' losses running into millions of pounds, Dr. Peter Olafson, Professor of Veterinary Pathology at Cornell University and head of its Department of Bacteriology, was today awarded the Haim Zimmerman prize (IL-300) "as a token of gratitude" by Hachaklali, a mutual society for cattle insurance and veterinary services.

From 1948, farmers up and down the country were perturbed by the disease "x" which carried off their cattle by the hundreds. It began at Mishmar Hasharon whose herd was completely wiped out. The disease struck many farms and one-fourth of the country's livestock was lost. At a loss to track down the cause, Israel veterinarians sent a delegate to the U.S. to seek the advice of Professor Olafson who had won fame as the discoverer of a poisonous chemical agent in lubricating oil which entered cattle feed and brought on the fatal disease.

Professor Olafson accepted the U.S. Operations Mission invitation and arrived with his wife and two daughters last December. Within a few weeks he discovered the disease and the cause, a certain type of grass used by farmers for agricultural machinery.

Michael and Rina Jaenkel are happy to announce the birth of their SON
IDA ULLMANN, New York, great-grandmother.
HESTER AVERACH, Haifa, great-grandmother.
BERNARD and ELIZABETH FRANKEL, GERMANY and EDITH AVERACH, Haifa, great-grandmothers.
December 26, 1955. 17 Shalom Street, Mt. Scopus, Haifa.

Typewriter and Clock Impounded for Taxes

NATANYA, Monday.— The typewriter and wall clock of the local Mapam David Adoni station were impounded by income tax officials today who charged the station with a delay in transferring the income tax deductions from their employer's wages.

Mr. I. Miel, the station's treasurer, told The Jerusalem Post that he had informed the tax authorities that Natanya M.D.A. employees had not yet received their November wages, and that consequently no income tax deductions of the unpaid wages could be transferred to the authorities. Nevertheless, the officials impounded the typewriter and clock and collected a IL-5 fine from Mr. Miel.

STUDENTS FIDDLE FOR MENUCHIN

TEL AVIV, Monday.— Perhaps the virtuosity of tomorrow, young students exhibited their talents before the celebrated violinist, Mr. Yehudi Menuhin, here today. In the hall of the Israel Music Conservatory and Academy of Music, surrounded by students and teachers, Mr. Menuhin listened attentively to the eight young violinists and pianists who were brought to his attention, he would notify the offending hospital to cease such practice.

Price of Local Paper

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Y. Sapir, said today that the price of locally produced paper was, on the average, 18 per cent higher than in the world market, c.i.f. Haifa. He was replying to questions by Dr. E. Avnion (Herut) and Mr. H. Rubin (Mapam).

Proceeds of Premier Going for Arms

Tickets for the special gala premiere of the Chamber Theatre's "The War of the Sons of Light" by Moshe Samir, scheduled for the middle of next month will cost IL-50 and IL-100 each. The proceeds of the performance will go to the Defence Fund.

NORE-BELISHA HERE AS UNIVERSITY GUEST

LYDDA AIRPORT, Monday.— "The strength of Israel is not merely moral and spiritual, but physical as well. The problems of the Middle East will never be solved by a third factor, and only the weight of Israel's strength against those of her neighbours will decide the issue," the Rt. Hon. Leslie Nore-Belisha, British Secretary of State for War at the outbreak of World War II, said on his arrival for a one-month visit here today.

RAINS DAMAGE EILAT AIRSTRIP

EILAT, Monday.— The recent rains have badly eroded the landing field, and Eilat has been without fruit or dairy supplies since Friday. The mail has also failed to arrive. Work is now going on to clear the field, and it is expected that regular air traffic will be resumed tomorrow.

Wife Gets Jail For Beating Husband

HAIFA, Monday.— For beating her sleeping husband over the head with a wooden club which he had prepared in order to beat her and wounding him seriously, Mrs. Bracha Haboura, 28, mother of three, of the Kiryat Benayamin Quarter, was today sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison by the District Court Judge, Mr. B. Zohar. Mrs. Haboura, who pleaded guilty, served the term while being remanded for police investigation. However, she must serve a suspended sentence of one week in jail, imposed on her less than a year ago by the Magistrate for threatening to use violence against her husband.

ELIESER RUTENBERG BURIED IN HAIFA

HAIFA, Monday.— Elieser Rutenberg, 70, who died in Tiberias yesterday, was buried here today. The bier was followed from his home on Mt. Carmel to the Carmel Cemetery by hundreds of mourners. They included his family, leading local citizens, many employees and officials of the Palestine Electric Corporation, which the deceased's brother, Pinhas, founded, and of local enterprises with which he had been associated. Elieser Rutenberg established the Consolidated Near East Ltd., importers of agricultural machinery and other equipment. His son Pinhas rectified the husband at the graveside.

Knesset Ends Frank Debate On Sole Authority of Courts

The Knesset debate on "private courts" came to an end yesterday with the adoption of a Coalition resolution taking note of the Government's announcement that it was about to present a bill on this subject.

Hospital May Not Hold Patients for 'Ransom'

No government hospital tries to prevent patients from leaving until their bill is paid, the Minister of Health stated in the Knesset yesterday in reply to a question by Mr. S. Lorence (Agudat Yisrael).

Mr. Barzilai said that there were cases where non-government hospitals attempted to do so, and he agreed with Mr. Lorence that the practice was illegal and should be discontinued. He added that he would bring to his attention, he would notify the offending hospital to cease such practice.

Disinterested House Gets C'ttee Report

The conclusions of the Knesset Finance Committee on the State Comptroller's Report No. 5 (1955) were presented to the Disinterested House yesterday by Mr. I. Guri, the Committee chairman.

The Report was tabled in the Second Knesset on February 15, 1955, and the Finance Committee submitted its conclusions and recommendations on June 2. But that was the last week of the Second Knesset's work, and there was no time for a debate then.

Last week, the Committee tabled the same conclusions and the same recommendations in the Third Knesset. The House Committee decided not to hold a debate, as in previous years, but to refer the matter to a subcommittee by the Committee's chairman and brief statements by members of the House Committee—Harari and the General Committee. Mr. Guri took exception to this procedure.

INFILTRATOR SENTENCED

ACRE, Monday.— For repeated infiltration from the Lebanon, Ali Kasser Hassan, 22, formerly of Dir el Amad Village in Galilee, was sentenced to two years in prison by the military court here today. Hassan left for the Lebanon during the War of Independence. He was arrested about three months ago in the Old City of Acre.

DIRECT DIALING between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and Haifa and Tel Aviv, is now in effect from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Fridays or holidays or on 24 Sunday or the day after the holiday.

Historical Sites Committee Meets

The first meeting of the committee recently appointed by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to advise on the preservation of the country's landscape and also of its many historical sites and places associated with the War of Independence, was held yesterday.

The committee is composed of Ben-Ali Yigal Yadin (Chairman), Abba Hirsch, A. Aharon, Mr. Y. Eilat, Mr. Y. Tzameret, Mr. Y. Rabin, Dr. A. Carlsbach, Editor of "Ha-Arutz", and the architect, Mr. A. Shapira. The Minister of the Interior, Mr. Y. Ben-Zur, who is in charge of planning, Mr. Alexander Ezer will advise the Committee on tourism.

To commemorate the fighting to keep the road to Jerusalem open in the spring of 1948, a small museum is to be opened in an abandoned house near Sha'ar Haigal, some 20 kilometres from Jerusalem. The funds for the project have already been allocated, and they should be completed by the end of the spring of 1956.

Sim. LOAN FOR SCHOOLS IN JLEM

A group of orthodox American Jews have informed Rabbi Moshe Porush, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, through his son, Menachem, who is now in the U.S., that they will seek a loan to build schools in Jerusalem.

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